

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 18,999

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served September 21, 2020

Application of FREESTATE)
TRANSPORTATION, L.L.C., for a) Case No. AP-2020-119
Certificate of Authority --)
Irregular Route Operations)

Applicant seeks a certificate of authority to transport passengers in irregular route operations between points in the Metropolitan District, restricted to transportation in vehicles with a seating capacity of less than 16 persons only, including the driver. The application is unopposed.

The Compact, Title II, Article XI, Section 7(a), authorizes the Commission to issue a certificate of authority if it finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that the applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

Applicant verifies that: (1) applicant owns or leases, or has the means to acquire through ownership or lease, one or more motor vehicles meeting the Commission's safety requirements and suitable for the transportation proposed in this application; (2) applicant owns, or has the means to acquire, a motor vehicle liability insurance policy that provides the minimum amount of coverage required by Commission regulations; and (3) applicant has access to, is familiar with and will comply with the Compact, the Commission's rules, regulations and orders, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations as they pertain to transportation of passengers for hire.

Normally, such evidence would establish an applicant's fitness, but this applicant has a history of regulatory violations.

I. HISTORY OF VIOLATIONS

Applicant held WMATC Certificate of Authority No. 1724 from February 3, 2011, until August 28, 2015, when it was revoked for applicant's failure to pay a \$100 late insurance fee under Regulation No. 67-03(c).¹ The revocation order noted that the \$100 late fee would remain due and gave applicant 30 days to surrender Certificate No. 1724 and file a notarized affidavit and supporting photograph(s) verifying

¹ *In re Freestate Transp., L.L.C.*, No. MP-15-132, Order No. 15,822 (Aug. 28, 2015).

removal of WMATC markings from applicant's vehicle(s). Applicant did not comply within the time allowed.

Prior to the events in 2015, Certificate No. 1724 was suspended two other times for insurance violations.²

II. LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE COMPLIANCE

When an applicant has a record of violations, the Commission considers the following factors in assessing the likelihood of applicant's future compliance: (1) the nature and extent of the violations, (2) any mitigating circumstances, (3) whether the violations were flagrant and persistent, (4) whether the controlling party has made sincere efforts to correct past mistakes, and (5) whether the controlling party has demonstrated a willingness and ability to comport with the Compact and rules and regulations thereunder in the future.³

Applicant's failure to pay the late insurance fee warranted revocation of Certificate No. 1724, and applicant's failure to respond to the revocation order by surrendering Certificate No. 1724 and confirming removal of vehicle markings persisted for several years.

On the other hand, applicant belatedly paid the late fee in November 2015. In addition, while the instant application was pending, applicant surrendered Certificate No. 1724 and submitted a notarized affidavit and supporting photographs evidencing removal of WMATC markings from applicant's vehicles. There is no evidence in the record of post-suspension or post-revocation operations within the Metropolitan District, or other unauthorized operations.

The Commission has found other applicants fit under similar circumstances.⁴ Applicant shall serve a 1-year period of probation as a means of ensuring prospective compliance.⁵

III. CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence in this record, and considering the terms of probation and other conditions prescribed herein, the Commission finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

² *In re Freestate Transp., L.L.C.*, No. MP-13-097, Order No. 14,070 (July 15, 2013); *In re Freestate Transp., L.L.C.*, No. MP-14-109, Order No. 14,917 (July 15, 2014).

³ *In re Metro Transcare LLC*, No. AP-17-047, Order No. 17,193 at 3 (Sept. 8, 2017).

⁴ See, e.g., *In re Galaxy Limo. Servs., LLC*, No. AP-15-099, Order No. 16,044 (Dec. 11, 2015) (timely cessation of affiliate operations, surrender of affiliate certificate, payment of outstanding affiliate fees, confirmation of no vehicle markings); *In re Henka Int'l, Inc., t/a Worldwide Tours & Travel*, No. AP-03-184, Order No. 8035 (May 27, 2004) (no evidence of post-suspension operations and satisfactory accounting for vehicles and vehicle markings).

⁵ See Order No. 16,044 (same); Order No. 8035 (same).

Although applicant initially proposed doing business under the trade name, "Freestate Ambulance," applicant has withdrawn its request for use of a trade name. Accordingly, the Certificate of Authority approved herein shall be issued without any trade name.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 1724 shall be issued to Freestate Transportation, L.L.C., 832 Oregon Avenue, #K-L, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1400.

2. That applicant may not transport passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District pursuant to this order unless and until a certificate of authority has been issued in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

3. That applicant is hereby directed to file the following documents and present its revenue vehicle(s) for inspection within the 180-day maximum permitted in Commission Regulation No. 66: (a) evidence of insurance pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 58; (b) an original and four copies of a tariff or tariffs in accordance with Commission Regulation No. 55; (c) a vehicle list stating the year, make, model, serial number, fleet number, license plate number (with jurisdiction) and seating capacity of each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; (d) a copy of the for-hire vehicle registration card, and a lease as required by Commission Regulation No. 62 if applicant is not the registered owner, for each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; and (e) proof of current safety inspection of said vehicle(s) by or on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. That applicant shall be placed on probation for a period of one year commencing with the reissuance of Certificate No. 1724 in accordance with the terms of this order and that a willful violation of the Compact, or of the Commission's rules, regulations or orders thereunder, by applicant during the period of probation shall constitute grounds for immediate suspension and/or revocation of applicant's operating authority without further proceedings, regardless of the nature and severity of the violation.

5. That the grant of authority herein shall be void and the application shall stand denied upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy the conditions of issuance prescribed herein.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS MAROOTIAN, HOLCOMB, AND RICHARD:



Jeffrey M. Lehmann
Executive Director